GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2660
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
INSTALLATION OF LINEAR ACCELATOR MACHINE
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions to the hospitals to install the linear accelator machine for the treatment of cancer;

(b) whether the treatment of cancer by employing the above technique is costlier as compared to treatment through Cobalt technique;

(c) whether the Government has discussed this issue with the cancer specialist of the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the opinion expressed by the cancer specialists in this regard;

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to provide assistance to the cancer patients getting treatment from the linear accelator machine; and

(f) the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a to d): A meeting was held in this Ministry on 12th May, 2004 for formulating recommendations on procurement of Radiotherapy Machines wherein it was mentioned by various experts that the cost of Linear Accelerator is much higher than that of Cobalt therapy machine. No instructions were issued to any Govt. Institutions to install Linear Accelerator or any other equipment under the Oncology development scheme of the National Cancer Control Programme and choice of equipment was left to the Institutions concerned based on ground realities.

(e & f): Under the National Cancer Control Programme there is no scheme to provide financial assistance to the cancer patients. This Ministry has recognized 22 Regional Cancer Centres in different parts of the country who are providing treatment facilities either free of cost or at a nominal rate to the needy patients.